Widening and deepening the A. V. M. canal.

164. *MR M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received representations for the widening and deepening of the A. V. M. canal between Poovar and Tengapattanam;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether they will be pleased to state the nature of the action taken on the same:

(*c*) whether they are aware that some of the bridges across the above canal are broken completely; and

(*d*) whether they have any plan of reconstructing the broken bridges to suit the convenience of the public?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The petition was forwarded to the officer concerned and he has reported that this portion of the A. V. M. canal is being maintained in a navigable condition.

(*c*) & (*d*). Yes; their reconstruction will be taken up when funds become available.

The old A. V. M. canal.

165 *MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the length of the old A. V. M. canal from Poovar to Mandakad and the total expenditure they had to incur for digging the same;

(*b*) whether any portion of this canal was sold by them and, if so, the length of the canal thus sold and the total selling price they got from such sale;

(*c*) the reasons which weighed with them to sell such a portion of the A. V. M. Canal;

(*d*) whether they have at any time investigated the feasibility of restoring this portion of the A. V. M. Canal thus sold and if so, whether they have prepared any estimate; and

(*e*) whether they have at any time considered the feasibility of the extension of water communication from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin by restoring the A. V. M. Canal?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) Nearly 16¼ miles; information *re* the cost incurred in opening this portion is not available at present.

(*b*) The approximate length is 5½ miles. Information regarding the proceeds realised is not available at present.

(*c*) On account of its non-utility.

(*d*) and (*e*) In view of the heavy cost involved in restoring the canal as compared with its usefulness, only improvements of the existing portions are being attempted.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether the work of the A. V. M. Canal will be included in the proposed scheme of the reorganisation of the Irrigation scheme?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): That will be left to the Committee.

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